



Congressman David Schweikert

Arizona's 6th District

Paws Off Act of 2021

Promoting Safe Labeling Requirements for Pet Safety

- Xylitol poisoning calls to ASPCA animal poison control center have risen sharply over the last 15 years: 201 calls were registered in 2005 compared to 6,760 calls registered in 2020 and is increasingly the top reported toxin for pets in states across the US.
- The prevalence of xylitol is increasing and being included in more products making it harder for pet owners that are even aware of the danger it poses to keep track of which household items may be deadly for their dogs and other pets.
- Xylitol is most often found in breath mints, sugar-free gum, and but can also be present in an array of items including vitamins, cough drops, sugar-free desserts, baked goods, mouthwash, toothpaste, and other household items.
- Recent surveys by ADDA suggest almost 50% of US households have one or more dogs. There are an estimated 78 Million dogs owned by Americans in total. Surveys also show that despite FDA awareness campaign efforts, that nearly 50% of pet owners are unaware of the dangers xylitol poses to their dogs.

The Paws Off Act of 2021

Sec. 1 – Short title

Sec. 2 – Xylitol Label and Labeling Requirements

- (a) Amends Section 403 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, an outline of conditions for which a food is considered mislabeled, by including “If it is a food that contains xylitol, unless the label or labeling of such food contains a warning specifying the toxic effects of xylitol for dogs if ingested.”
- (b) Rulemaking process - The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall,
 1. Acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, initiate a rulemaking to carry out the amendment made by subsection (a);
 2. Issue an interim rule to carry no later than six months after enactment of this Act; and
 3. Issue a final rule shall no later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act.